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Subject: Re: Public Attendance at next Sage Grouse EIS meeting
Date: Friday, November 05, 2010 10:41:26 AM

Chuck

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture does not support Cooperator Agency meetings being open to the public in any way. We feel opening these meetings has set a bad precedent for future meetings and NEPA related projects. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the reasons why in a different setting and at a later date.

With that said, since you have already opened these preliminary meeting to the public, we feel that you must follow through in good faith and finish discussing the items that were placed in the parking lot. The public should not be present in the ensuing alternative development discussions.

In addition, the agenda discussed in your email does not seem appropriate for the task at hand. We feel the parking lot issues being covered by the sub-groups should be kept to one day, even if the day has to be extended past the 10:00am to 4:00pm time frame (of day 1) to accomplish the task. The development of the preferred alternative should be more important and take the most time and consideration to develop. The preferred alternative is where the rubber meets the road and stands as the back bone to the development of the RMP amendment.

You should notify the public that November 30th will be open to the public to cover any unresolved issues from the previous meetings. The remaining two days should be devoted to the development of the preferred alternative.

Thus we support your #2 (opposed to opening the meetings to the public) but believe your #3 (open to the parking lot issues) is appropriate for this situation regarding the circumstances.

Thanks for this opportunity to comment,

Jessica Crowder & Chris Wichmann

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>>> <Chuck_Otto@blm.gov> 11/4/2010 3:10 PM >>>

Dear Cooperating Agencies,

BLM received several requests to open the next cooperating agency meeting of the Sage Grouse Plan Amendments EIS Team to the public. The meeting is scheduled for the 30th of November and December 1st and 2nd in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The meeting's subject is development of a preliminary preferred alternative.

As a cooperating agency, BLM formally requests your opinion regarding this manner, Please reply by Nov. 15th with your agencies' position on whether this meeting should be open to the public. .

The agenda for the next meeting will include receiving and addressing information that the small groups have assembled on 'parking lot' issues assigned at the Casper Oct 25-28 meeting. BLM anticipates the first two days of the next meeting will be discussion of these issues, prior to beginning the development of the preliminary preferred alternative. When indicating your preference please also consider whether this preliminary portion of the meeting should or should not be open. If you have had more than one representative at our meetings, we are accepting only one vote from each agency. Thanks in advance for your help in this matter.

Vote for either 1, 2, or 3

1. (Insert agency name), is in favor of all days of the 11/30/2010 thru 12/02/2010 cooperating agency meeting being open for public observation.
2. (Insert agency name), is opposed to all days of the 11/30/2010 thru 12/02/2010 cooperating agency meeting being open for public observation.

3. (Insert agency name) is in favor of only the preliminary
'parking
lot' inter- agency discussions being open to public observation.

Chuck Otto
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